FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

NORTHERN CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1894-95.

INTRODUCTION.

The Circle was in charge of undersigned during the whole year. The divisions were held by Messrs. Greatheed, Stewart, Hodgson and Wallinger, and Mr. Millett was in charge of the Working Plans Branch.

2. A considerable change in the forest area is shown in the report, being an increase of reserved forest by 52,475 acres and decrease of protected forest by 98,671 acres, but a large proportion of this is due to rectification of the records of the Forest Settlement Officer on whose report the change is made.

3. The Forest Survey cotinued its work on the 8″ scale; a large proportion of the Váda Range in East Thána being mapped during the season.

4. The Working Plans Branch made rather better progress in marking off coupes in advance of the requirements of the coming season in the two Thána divisions and a commencement was made in organizing the forests of the Panch Mahâls division.

5. Protection as judged by percentages of convictions, &c., was satisfactory.

6. Protection from fire shows no improvement if mere figures are taken as a guide; but a distinct advance was made in the arrangements for protecting the Mándvi forests from fires coming from Gáikwári territory, which only failed because time and funds were wanting to complete them in time. The failure of the figures of results to show any improvement are most certainly due to their increasing accuracy year by year.

7. The financial results of the year were unexpectedly favourable. Large exploitations in the Jawhár, Dharampur and Baroda States failed to affect the demand and notwithstanding that purchasers from the Upper Dáng forests refused to take any wood under a revised system introduced this year, nevertheless the gross receipts amounted to Rs. 7,38,680 against Rs. 7,60,954 in 1893-94, and the net revenue was Rs. 4,62,709. The decrease of Rs. 34,000 in the net revenue almost exactly represents an extraordinary item on account of receipts from inám forests in the Panch Mahâls included in the accounts for 1893-94.

CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

8. The changes of area of the State forests which have taken place during the past year are given in Form No. 46. The following abstract statement shows the result of these changes :—

Class of Forests.	Area on 1st July 1894.	Added during the year.	Excluded or transferred during the year.	Area on 30th June 1895.	Remarks.
	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	
Reserved	1,104 369	81 638	4 228	1,182 139	
Protected	603 429	.....	154 111	449 318	
Leased	678 320	.....	.....	678 320	
Total ...	2,386 478	81 638	158 339	2,310 137	